Country	2003-2004		2004-2005	
	Export	Import	Export	Import
Myanmar	89.64	409.01	109.73	397.07
Thailand	831.69	609.06	856.07	833.48
Total	4740.13	1628.56	4718.22	2039.84
Total trade	6368.69		6758.06	

Data Source: DGCI & S Kolkata (Supplied by NIC, DOC)

(c) For boosting exports from India to Myanmar, regular initiatives through various institutional mechanisms are being taken. As regards Thailand, negotiations are going on for establishing a Free Trade Agreement between India and Thailand.

With Bhutan and Sri Lanka we have free trade agreements. Bilateral trade between India and Nepal is regulated by Treaty of Trade between two countries. With Bangladesh we have a Trade Agreement.

Periodical meetings of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group are held to address issues coming in the way of increasing bilateral trade between the two countries. Periodical meetings between India and Sri Lanka are held under Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement to address issues with a view to further boost bilateral trade and investments. India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka are signatories to South Asian Free Trade Agreement which is scheduled to come into force from 1.1.2006. India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are also members of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Free Trade Agreement which is in advance stage of negotiations.

The above measures are likely to further boost India's exports to the above countries in future.

Steps to help tobacco growers in sale of their produce

1532. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have been requesting the

Union Government for the last three years to permit the Tobacco Board to intervene into market to help tobacco growers in sale of their produce, as State Trading Corporation of India Limited which used to intervene on a commercial basis has been disinvested; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken by the Government to help tobacco growers in marketing of tobacco through Tobacco Board to create buoyancy in the market in view of the decreasing demand for tobacco in recent years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the auctions, the market situation is regularly reviewed by the Tobacco Board with all stakeholders *viz.* the representatives of Indian Tobacco Associations, manufacturers, and exporters, to ensure remunerative prices to the growers. The concerted efforts of the Tobacco Board have resulted in ensuring average price realisation to the farmers well above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government despite production far in excess of the authorised crop size fixed for the season.

Setting up of Tobacco units in SEZ areas

1533. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals for setting up of Tobacco units in SEZ areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of Indian and Foreign companies which have submitted the proposals for such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN):(a) and (b) A proposal has recently been received from M/s. Bommidala Enterprises Private Limited, Guntur for setting up of a unit in Madras Special Economic Zone for manufacture and export of cigarettes.